

Claims

[c1] What is claimed is:

1.A network equipment management system comprising:
a plurality of network equipments;
a management computer, for managing the network equipments; and
a management agent, coupled between the network equipments and the management computer, for representing the management computer to manage the network equipments;
wherein when the management agent receives a managing packet sent by the management computer, the management agent changes the address information of the managing packet to generate an agent managing packet, and sends the agent managing packet to a first network equipment; when the management agent receives a replying packet sent by the first network equipment, the management agent changes the address information of the replying packet to generate an agent replying packet, and sends the agent replying packet to the management computer.

[c2] 2.The network equipment management system of claim

1, wherein the management agent and the network equipments are located in a local area network.

[c3] 3.The network equipment management system of claim 2, wherein the management agent and the network equipments use private IP addresses to communicate with each other.

[c4] 4.The network equipment management system of claim 1, wherein the management computer and the management agent use real IP addresses to communicate with each other through the Internet.

[c5] 5.The network equipment management system of claim 1, wherein the network equipment management system uses the TELNET protocol.

[c6] 6.The network equipment management system of claim 1, wherein the network equipment management system uses the HTTP protocol.

[c7] 7.The network equipment management system of claim 1, wherein the network equipment management system uses the SNMP protocol.

[c8] 8.The network equipment management system of claim 1, wherein the network equipments comprise network servers.

- [c9] 9.The network equipment management system of claim 1, wherein the network equipments comprise information appliances.
- [c10] 10.The network equipment management system of claim 1, wherein the network equipments comprise network switches.
- [c11] 11.The network equipment management system of claim 1, wherein the network equipments comprise routers.
- [c12] 12.A method for allowing a management computer to manage a plurality of network equipments in a network system, the method comprising:
(a)providing a management agent coupled between the management computer and the network equipments;
(b)sending a managing packet to the management agent with the management computer;
(c)changing the address information of the managing packet to generate an agent managing packet and then sending the agent managing packet to a first network equipment with the management agent; and
(d)performing corresponding operation(s) according to the agent managing packet with the first network equipment.
- [c13] 13.The method of claim 12, wherein in step (c), the

management agent changes the source address and the destination address of the managing packet to become the IP address of the management agent and the IP address of the first network equipment respectively, to generate the agent managing packet.

- [c14] 14.The method of claim 12, further comprising:
(e)sending a replying packet to the management agent with the first network equipment; and
(f)changing the address information of the replying packet to generate an agent replying packet and then sending the agent replying packet to the management computer with the management agent.
- [c15] 15.The method of claim 14, wherein in step (f), the management agent changes the source address and the destination address of the replying packet to become the IP address of the management agent and the IP address of the management computer respectively, to generate the agent replying packet.
- [c16] 16.The method of claim 14, wherein in the agent managing packet and the replying packet, the source addresses and destination addresses are private IP addresses.
- [c17] 17.The method of claim 14, wherein in the managing

packet and the agent replying packet, the source addresses and destination addresses are real IP addresses.

[c18] 18.The method of claim 12, further comprising:
(g)using the management computer to establish a connection with the management agent through the Internet;
(h)after the connection between the management computer and the management agent has been established, sending status information of the network equipments to the management computer with the management agent;
and
(i)showing the status information of the network equipments on a controlling window of a screen with the management computer.

[c19] 19.The method of claim 18, further comprising:
(j)using the controlling window to choose a target network equipment within the network equipments with the management computer;
(h)setting the chosen network equipment as the first network equipment with the management agent; and
(j)showing a managing window on the screen for managing the first network equipment with the management computer.

[c20] 20.The method of claim 12, wherein the method uses

the TELNET protocol.

[c21] 21.The method of claim 12, wherein the method uses the HTTP protocol.

[c22] 22.The method of claim 12, wherein the method uses the SNMP protocol.